

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method and apparatus for providing electronically mailable call credits and call connections to be charged thereto are purchased by a customer for a recipient through the Internet and sent via email to the recipient. The recipient requests a call by activating an icon associated with the email. An application server receives the request and sends a call request message via the Internet to a virtual switching point associated with a switched telephone network. The virtual switching point initiates actions in the switched telephone network to set up a telephone communication between the recipient and a party to be called.

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